

MONTANA ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

December 2001

UNEMPLOYMENT BY COUNTY

Not seasonally adjusted

	<i>Dec 2000</i>	<i>Dec 2001*</i>
UNITED STATES	3.7%	5.4%
MONTANA	4.9%	4.9%
Cascade **	4.6%	4.3%
Missoula **	3.4%	4.1%
Yellowstone **	3.4%	3.6%
Beaverhead	4.3%	3.2%
Big Horn	17.3%	16.0%
Blaine	6.4%	4.3%
Broadwater	5.0%	5.3%
Carbon	5.3%	5.6%
Carter	1.7%	2.4%
Chouteau	3.3%	3.2%
Custer	5.1%	3.8%
Daniels	3.2%	2.0%
Dawson	2.9%	2.1%
Deer Lodge	8.3%	8.3%
Fallon	3.8%	2.4%
Fergus	7.1%	5.8%
Flathead	6.1%	6.5%
Gallatin	3.0%	2.9%
Garfield	4.6%	2.6%
Glacier	15.5%	12.2%
Golden Valley	7.4%	5.5%
Granite	8.1%	7.8%
Hill	4.1%	3.6%
Jefferson	5.2%	5.2%
Judith Basin	6.1%	3.9%
Lake	6.5%	8.7%
Lewis & Clark	4.3%	4.5%
Liberty	2.3%	3.4%
Lincoln	10.9%	12.2%
McCone	2.4%	2.2%
Madison	4.7%	4.3%
Meagher	8.4%	6.5%
Mineral	10.7%	9.4%
Musselshell	7.9%	9.7%
Park	6.4%	6.5%
Petroleum	4.8%	0.9%
Phillips	4.5%	4.7%
Pondera	4.5%	4.2%
Powder River	2.6%	2.6%
Powell	4.8%	5.0%
Prairie	6.5%	5.2%
Ravalli	5.8%	5.5%
Richland	4.3%	3.9%
Roosevelt	7.9%	7.0%
Rosebud	7.2%	7.0%
Sanders	9.2%	9.0%
Sheridan	3.7%	4.2%
Silver Bow	6.1%	5.4%
Stillwater	4.6%	3.9%
Sweet Grass	2.9%	4.2%
Teton	4.4%	3.9%
Toole	2.5%	2.6%
Treasure	4.3%	3.8%
Valley	3.9%	3.3%
Wheatland	5.0%	5.5%
Wibaux	2.5%	1.5%

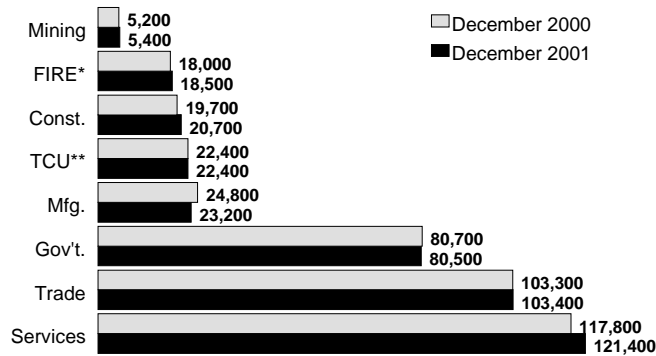
**December 2001 rate preliminary*

*** Cascade=Great Falls MSA
Missoula=Missoula MSA
Yellowstone=Billings MSA*

DECEMBER 2001 HIGHLIGHTS

Nonag Payroll Employment

Montana Jobs (Seasonally Adjusted)

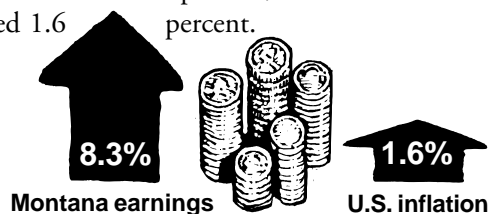


*Finance/Insurance/Real Estate **Transportation/Communications/Utilities

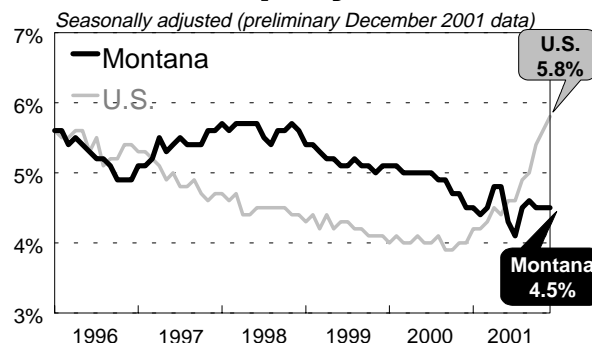
Montana's nonagricultural payroll employment was up 0.9 percent over the year. Services was up 3,600 jobs. Manufacturing was down 1,600 jobs.

Earnings

Montana's average weekly December earnings outpaced the increase in U.S. inflation. Over the year, average weekly earnings for Montana's private sector nonsupervisory workers increased 8.3 percent, while U.S. inflation increased 1.6 percent.



Unemployment



Montana's 4.5 percent unemployment rate in December was the same as in November and 1.3 percentage points lower than the national rate for December.

NEW FROM THE CENSUS BUREAU

July 1, 2001 population estimates

The U.S. Census Bureau recently released July 1, 2001 population estimates for the nation using Census 2000 data for a benchmark. Those estimates say:

- The United States population increased by 3.4 million people to 284.8 million between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2001.
- Montana's population grew by 2,238 people to 904,433.

For a link to U.S. Census Bureau July 1, 2001 population estimates, visit the Montana Census and Economic Information Center website at <http://ceic.commerce.state.mt.us>.

ONLINE AT

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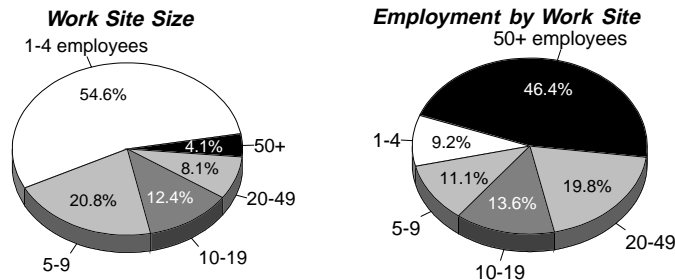
We will do our best to provide information in accessible format, on request, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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MOST STATE BUSINESSES ARE SMALL, BUT LARGE BUSINESSES EMPLOY THE MOST WORKERS

While it is true that small businesses vastly outnumber large businesses in Montana, nearly half the workers in Montana covered by unemployment insurance work for businesses with 50 or more employees.

Work Site Size and Employment* by Work Site - Montana (*Covered by unemployment insurance)



Source: March 2001 ES-202 (covered employment) data

- Over half (54.6 percent) of Montana’s businesses have 1-4 employees, but employ only 9.2 percent of Montana workers covered by unemployment insurance.
- Only 4.1 percent of Montana’s businesses have 50 or more employees, but they employ 46.4 percent of Montana workers covered by unemployment insurance.

EMPLOYMENT: “COVERED” AND “NONCOVERED”

Montana’s workforce is made up of “covered” and “noncovered” employment.

- Covered employment** accounts for the approximately 83 percent of Montana’s workforce working for employers subject to Montana’s unemployment insurance (UI) laws.
- Noncovered employment** accounts for workers not covered by Montana’s UI laws, such as the self-employed, railroad workers, volunteers, unpaid family workers and domestic workers. Most agricultural workers are noncovered.

Return in 5 days to:
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